



RCMP O DIVISION CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM

Border Integrity Open Source Results for 2022-02-20, 1600 hours

CIP Reference Number	CIP-2022-6077-IB
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AIM

To provide RCMP O Division with passive open source information identified on 2022-02-20 by 1600 hours, pertaining to the ongoing protests known as the "Freedom Convoy" at or near Ontario land and air ports of entry (POE).

KEY FINDINGS

- Protesters on the US side of the border near the Peace Bridge in New York State have been observed gathering near the POE and under the bridge. Public OS information shows a relatively small crowd, waving US flags in peaceful protest.
- A slow-roll convoy is planned for tomorrow in the Peterborough – Kingston area. There is no available information indicating whether the route will impact a POE.
- There appears to be a lack of support, direction and organization for planned protests in the Sarnia area. Should someone step-up to organize a protest, there may be more support in the future.
- The privatization of two previously public Windsor-based Facebook groups poses a significant intelligence gap for passive open source querying.

NIAGARA REGION

Peace Bridge

Open source (OS) findings indicate a protest on the US side of the Peace Bridge is currently underway in Buffalo, NY near the international border.ⁱ Captions from the photos and videos indicate they are in solidarity with the Canadian freedom convoy (Figure 1, next page). The statement could refer to the planned protest on the Canadian side of the bridge by the social media group 'FREEDOM CONVOY FORT ERIE BORDER 2022'ⁱⁱ, although there is no confirmation the two sides are related or coordinated on this day. As of writing time there is no publicly viewable information found about the current status of the Fort Erie convoy on the Canadian side of the border that attempted to reach the Peace Bridge yesterday.

There is no information yet uncovered to indicate the protesters on the Canadian side have reached the area near the bridge, however OPP and Niagara Regional Police Services (NRPS) were on stand-by this morning for this possibility, given the developments from the previous day.

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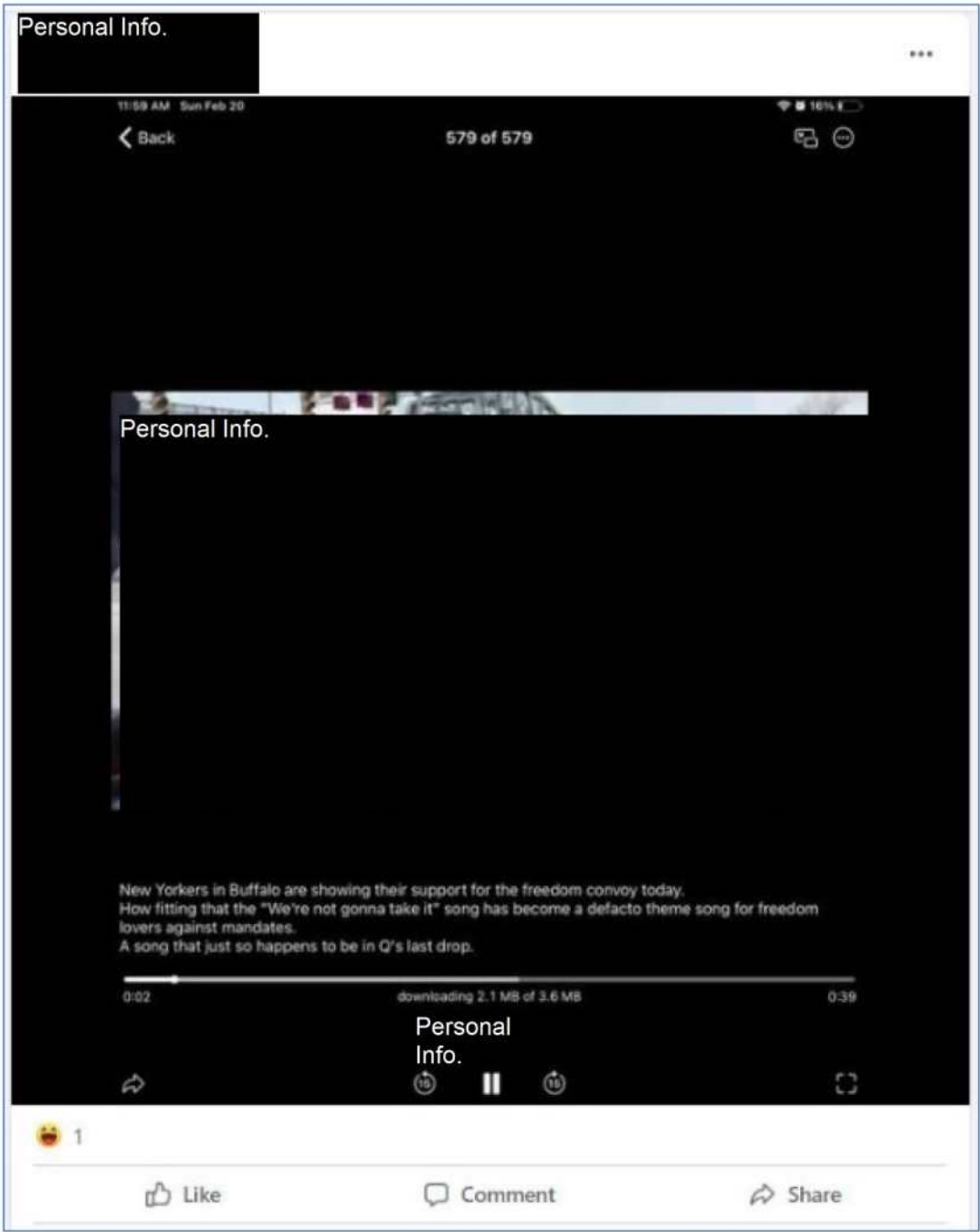


Figure 1: Facebook video screenshot from a gathering in Buffalo, NY

Rainbow/Whirlpool/Queenston-Lewiston Bridge

No posts of concern since the last report.

KINGSTON

As noted in CIP-2022-6076-IB at 1000 hours, the Peterborough-based group, 'Peterborough Freedom Rally Convoy'ⁱⁱⁱ may be staging another slow roll truck protest around Peterborough, Kingston and the nearby POE areas, on Monday 2022-02-21 (Figure 2).^{iv} Counter-protesters have been posting the event on their social media and could plan a confrontation, similar to the minor convoy altercations observed on 2022-02-19. There is no information yet about the planned attendance, or route, as the post was recently uploaded. Not much traffic to the post was noted as of writing time.

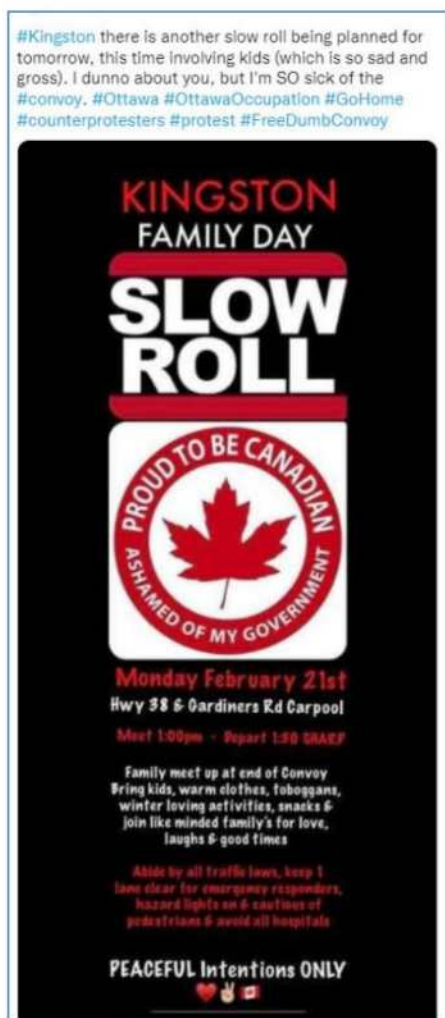


Figure 2: Notification of the planned convoy in Kingston on 2022-02-21.

CORNWALL

No posts of concern were observed since the last report.

WINDSOR

No posts of concern were located regarding any planned activity at the Ambassador Bridge or Detroit-Windsor Tunnel. Most online discussion was directed at protests in Ottawa.

Personal Info. an admin for the **Personal Info.** (now private), posted a link to an event to her personal Facebook page.^v The URL suggests the name of the event is “Line up for Freedom”, but the link is not accessible.^{vi} Facebook indicates that the contact isn’t available and it may be because the user only shared it with a small group of people, changed who can see it or it has been deleted (Figure 3).^{vii} It is unknown if the event was deleted on Facebook or rather it cannot be accessed via passive open source queries.



Figure 3: Facebook event - Line Up for Freedom

SARNIA

Personal Info. posted in the **Personal Info.** group expressing his frustration over the lack of support for protests in Sarnia. **Personal Info.** pointed out that there are 15,000 members in the group; however, the same 12 people are the ones showing up. **Personal Info.** is an administrator of the Facebook group and advised that things are going to be “wrapping up” unless people start to show their support. Some people commented on **Personal Info.** post advising that the lack of clear direction and organization (dates, times, locations) may be deterring some potential protesters. One person commented to go to the Fire Hall (Figure 4).^{viii} There appears to be a lack of support and a lack of direction and organization for planned protests in the Sarnia area. Should someone step-up to organize a protest, there may be more support in the future. No posts of concern were located regarding the Sarnia border at Blue Water Bridge.

Personal Info.

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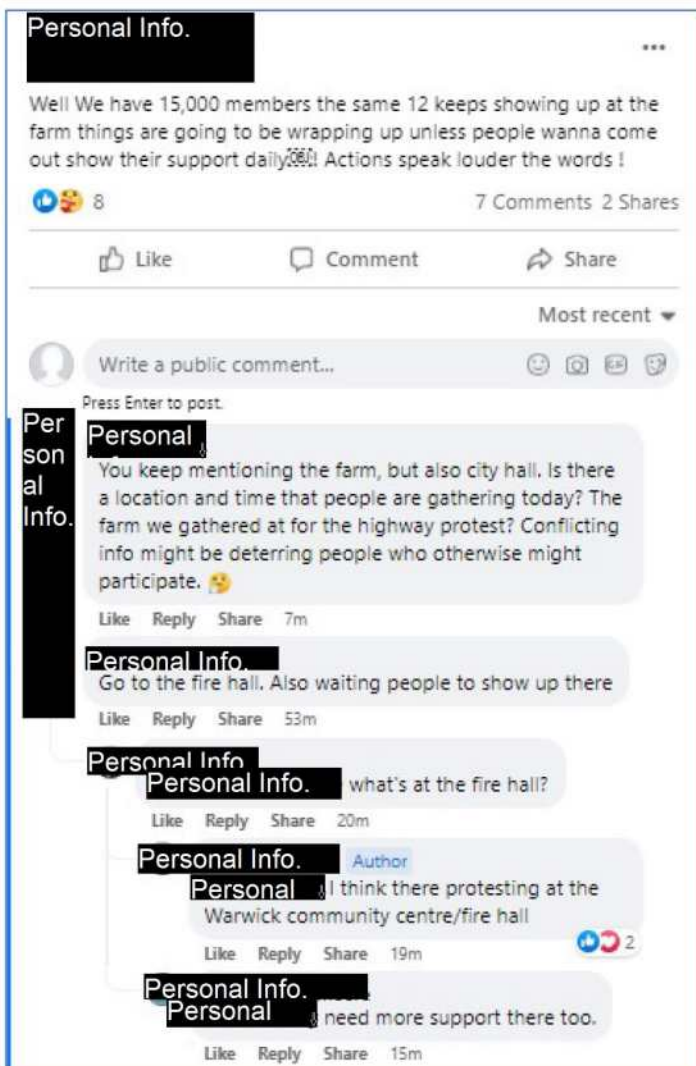


Figure 4: Facebook post - Sarnia Convoy for Freedom 2022

SAULT STE. MARIE

No posts of concern were observed since the last report.

OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – YOW

No posts of concern were observed since the last report.

TORONTO PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – YYZ

No posts of concern were observed since the last report.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

The privatization of two previously public Facebook groups poses a significant intelligence gap for passive open source querying. The **Personal Info.** currently has 35,916 members with 1,684 new posts today.^{ix} The 'Windsor Slowdown to Support the Ottawa Convoy' group has 3,751 members and 19 new posts today.^x

With the fluidity and ever evolving situations at or near the POEs, continued live query support of open source media is warranted in order to provide updated situational awareness for RCMP O Division and partner agencies.

LIIMITATIONS

Although every effort has been made to review all publicly visible social media and web sources for information relevant to this brief, the absence of threat information herein should not be taken as an exhaustive examination of potential threats. A large volume of information is available online and constantly evolving.

DISSEMINATION

A. Supt. Christina Galecki - O Division DIO
O Division Border Integrity Detachments
OPP Project HENDON

Personal Info.

